

Serial No. 09/160,618

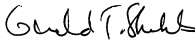
of an additive, not requiring a protein source. Applicant's invention cannot be obvious over at least claim 1.

Further, in the other claims the invention of the cited reference concentrates on the formation of a matrix into which suitable nonfunctional elements such as protein and sugar can be incorporated. Applicant's invention does not require the formation of such matrix and as such, Applicant's invention is not obvious therefrom. Further, other claims of the cited reference require the mixture of a hard component and a soft component. Applicant's invention does not involve the combination of hard and soft components and thus cannot be obvious therefrom.

With the above remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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